

European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)**Statement on “Children on the move”****Adopted at the 19th ENOC General Assembly, 24 September 2015, The Hague**

We, as ENOC¹ members, are deeply concerned about the critical situation for children on the move in Europe. As we warned two years ago in a public statement², children on the move experience violence, trafficking, trauma and death. The current situation highlights the urgent need for immediate action by European governments to secure these children’s rights.

We urge European governments to fulfil their obligations under the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Governments must ensure that children on the move are not exposed to additional trauma by being met with violent behaviour as they seek protection in Europe. Children must enjoy all of their rights under the Convention such as education, shelter and health care.

We underline the importance of the common responsibility of European states to ensure the protection and wellbeing of all children.

We have today formed a taskforce to monitor the fulfilment of the rights of children on the move in Europe, which will act on behalf of the 40 European ombudspersons and commissioners in Europe.

¹ ENOC stands for the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children www.enoc.eu

² See ENOC’s 2013 statement on “Children on the move: Children first!” here: <http://enoc.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ENOC-2013-Statement-on-Children-on-the-Move-EN.pdf>